The value of the proposals cleared by the State High Powered Comittees and due to be processed for release exceeds Rs. 1000 crore. For many of the balance districts, proposals from the States are expected to be received in December, 2007. As of now, it is the Ministry's expectation that all, or at any ratio, the bulk of the budget provision of BRGF will be released.

Regional Passport Office in Mangalore

*307. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to open a Regional Passport Office in Mangalore in Karnataka;

(b) the total number of applications for issuance of passport received from South Canara region in the previous three years;

(c) the total number of applications for issuance of passport pertaining to South Canara region that are pending; and

(d) the time frame fixed to establish a Regional Passport Office in Mangalore?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (d) In view of the growing demand from different sections of the society, the Government are considering to open a Passport Office in Mangalore. However, as part of the 'Passport Seva Project', a Passport Facilitation Centre will be located in Mangalore. This centre is expected to be operational by the beginning of 2009.

(b) The total number of applications for Passports received from South Canara region during previous three years is as under:—

District	Applications for fresh passports			Applications for miscellaneous services		
	2005	2006	2007 (as on 27.11.07)	2005	2006	2007 (as on 27.11.07)
Dakshina Kannada	19091	26886	25536	1641	1955	2179
Udupi	7659	12238	11696	614	687	742
TOTAL:	26750	39124	37232	2255	2642	2921

(c) The total number of applications under process for issue of passports pertaining to South Canara region is 1639 (as on November 27, 2007).

Global warming

*308. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is preparing to put before U.N.'s convention, its strategies on climate change;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the further steps which are being taken to control global warming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) As per the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), India, as well as other developing countries, taking into account the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and national circumstances" are expected to formulate, implement, publish and regularly update national programmes containing measures to mitigate Climate Change by addressing anthropogenic emissions of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, and measures to facilitiate adequate adaptation to Climate Change. India as a developing country is not expected under the UN convention on Climate Change to take on mitigation commitments. As per the UNFCCC, the extent to which developing country Parties will effectively implement their commitments under the Convention will depend on the effective implementation by developed country Parties of their commitments under the convention related to financial resources and transfer of technology and will take fully into account that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of the developing country Parties.

India attaches great importance to the issue of climate change and is engaged constructively and productively with the international community to preserve and protect the environment. India has already stated that India's per-capita GHG emissions would not exceed those of developed countries even while pursuing policies of development and economic growth. However in various international for a representatives from developed countries have been advocating involvement of developing countries to check emissions of greenhouse gases. In this context, the Indian position on the issue is that as a developing country, India is not expected under the UN Convention on Climate Change to take on mitigation commitments. However, our GHG emissions are among the lowest in per capita terms and account for only 4% of the world's emissions. Nonetheless, even though, India a developing country does not have any mitigation commitments, a sustainable development path is being followed through a range of policies and programmes to mitigate climate change, which include *inter-alia* the following:

(i) ensuring energy conservation and improved energy efficiency in various sectors as well as setting up of Bureau of Energy Efficiency

(ii) promoting use of renewable energy

(iii) power sector reforms and active renewable energy programme

(iv) use of cleaner and lesser carbon intensive fuel for transport

(v) fuel switching to cleaner energy

(vi) afforestation and conservation of forests

(vii) promotion of clean coal technologies

(viii) reduction of gas flaring

(ix) encouraging Mass Rapid Transport systems

(x) environmental quality management for all sectors

However, the biggest challenge for countries like India will be to look for adaptation activities in critical sectors, as the projected climatic change indicates adverse impacts on

developing countries in many ways resulting in changes in frequency, duration and intensity of extreme events such as heat waves and heavy precipitation events. Government of India is conscious of the implications of climate change and has been implementing various programs addressing climate variability concerns, the expenditure of which accounts for 2.6 % of our GDP in 2006-07. These include cyclone warning and protection, coastal protection, floods and drought control and relief, major and minor irrigation projects, control of malaria, food security measures, and research on drought resistant crops, and several others. Further, the Government has set up the "Expert Committee on Impacts of Climate Change" on 7th May, 2007 under the chairmanship of Dr. R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India to study the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on India and to identify the measures that we may have to take in the future in relation to addressing vulnerability to anthropogenic climate change impacts. In addition, a Council has been set up under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister on 6th June, 2007 constituting eminent persons to evolve a coordinated response to issues relating to climate change at the National level and provide oversight for formulation of action plans in the area of assessment.

Seven amenities and services to the urban poor

*309. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to ensure that every urban resident in the country has assured access to the "seven amenities and services to the urban poor";

(b) the seven amenities referred to above;

(c) the priority of each of the seven amenities in descending order;

(d) whether any study on the existence or absence of the seven amenities has been done, State-wise;

(e) if not, in what manner Government, would be able to provide and evolve decisions to meet the demands and needs; and

(f) the steps proposed to carefully study all urban habitats on the status of the seven amenities?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), launched in December, 2005 stipulates a mandatory reform for Urban Local Bodies in terms of providing seven amenities and services to the urban poor: security of tenure, affordable housing, water supply, sanitation and ensuring appropriate delivery of existing services of the Government relating to education, health and social security.

(c) No *inter-se* priority has been fixed by the Government for the seven amenities.

(d) to (f) No State-wise study relating to deficiencies in the seven amenities has been done. However, the Government of India has requested all States/Union Territories to conduct socio-economic surveys in slums, prepare time-bound action plans for cities/towns and submit DPRs for Central funding under JNNURM so that the seven amenities could be provided to the urban poor. Under JNNURM, Central grants are combined with funds from State Governments, ULBs/Parastatals and Beneficiaries' contribution with a view to pooling of